

REMARKS

This communication is a full and timely response to the final Office Action dated March 16, 2004. By this communication, claims 1-24 and 44 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the underlying subject matter. Claim 25 has been amended to recite said chelate film is removed by wiping or mechanical polishing and the chelate film is wiped by a wiping member having an air hole. Support for the changes to claim 25 can be found variously throughout the specification and the original claims, for example, in original claim 44. Claim 49 has been amended to improve form. No new matter has been added.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) satisfies a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and (d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested. Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested

Claims 25-43 and 45-52 are pending where claim 25 is independent.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for indicating the presence of allowable subject matter in claim 44. Applicant's response to the Examiner's rejection is set forth below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-5, 9-18, 21-42, and 45-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over *Wang*, U.S. Patent No. 6,440,295 in view of *Stevens et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,331,490 and further in view of *Basi*, U.S. Patent No. 3,951,710. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution, claims 1-5, 9-18, and 21-24 have been canceled. Thus, the rejection of claims 1-5, 9-18, and 21-24 is moot and should be withdrawn. Furthermore, Applicant amended claim 25 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 44, which the Office Action indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn, and claim 25 be allowed.

Claims 26-42 and 45-52 depend from claim 25. By virtue of this dependency, Applicant submits that claims 26-42 and 45-52 are allowable for at least the same reasons given above with respect to claim 25. In addition, Applicant submits that claims 26-42 and 45-52 are further distinguished over *Wang*, *Stevens*, and *Basi* by the additional elements recited therein, and particularly with respect to each claimed combination. Applicant respectfully requests, therefore, that the rejection of claims 26-42 and 45-52 under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn, and these claims be allowed.

Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over *Wang* in view of *Stevens* and *Basi* and further in view of *Liu*, U.S. Patent No. 5,963,040. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution Applicant has canceled claims 6 and 7. Accordingly, the rejection with respect to claims 6 and 7 is moot and should be withdrawn.

Claims 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over *Wang* in view of *Stevens*, and further in view of *Degani*, U.S. Patent No. 5,904,859. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution Applicant has canceled claims 19 and 20. Accordingly, the rejection with respect to claims 19 and 20 is moot and should be withdrawn.

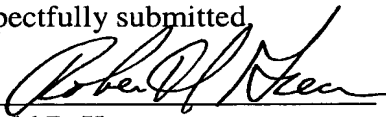
Conclusion

Based on at least the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 25-42 and 45-52 are allowable, and this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request favorable reexamination and reconsideration of the application. In the event the Examiner has any comments or suggestions for placing the application in even better form, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. SON-2043 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: May 17, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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